

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

**MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET 2012 MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2011 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. D. Owens (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin, J. Leahy, S. Moylan-Ryan, P. Ormond, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn and P. Rowland.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant, Mr. T. Shanahan, S.E., Mr. D. Mahon, S.E.O., Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O., Mr. D. Hogan, S.E., Ms. M. Stuart, Co. Librarian, Ms. C. Hillard, A.O. and Ms. N. Troy, C.O..
BUDGET 2012:	
<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the In-Committee Budget Meeting to conclude prior to the commencement of the Statutory Budget Meeting.</p> <p>Following the conclusion of the In-Committee meeting, the Cathaoirleach opened the Statutory Budget meeting at 2.40pm and referred to Circular Fin. 8/2011 received from the Local Government Finance Section dated 5th December 2011. The Circular advised that the provisional General-Purpose Grant allocation from the Local Government Fund (LGF) for Offaly County Council for 2012 was €12,164,815. He invited the County Manager and Head of Finance to introduce the Draft Budget 2012.</p> <p>The County Manager referred the members to the Draft Budget 2012 which had been prepared and circulated. He outlined the process that had been undertaken in relation to the preparation of the draft budget. He advised that the draft budget had been prepared in an extremely difficult and very challenging economic environment and represented the fourth year where budgets were being reduced. He advised that the cumulative effect of resource constraints, both financial and staffing, since 2008 would undoubtedly have a serious effect on service delivery in 2012. He noted that between 2008 and 2011 the Council's revenue had decreased by 12%, capital had decreased by 67% and there was a 23% decrease in staff numbers.</p> <p>Mr. Declan Conlon, Head of Finance, outlined the context of the 2012 Budget, noting that LGF accounted for 24% of the Council's income and that its reduction since 2008 had a significant impact on the Authority's finances. Mr. Conlon also drew the members' attention to the significant issues which had resulted in a requirement to reduce the budget by €4,202,764 in 2012.</p> <p>Mr. Conlon then drew the members' attention to Table A and advised the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Draft Budget provided for revenue spending of €58,091,917;• the estimated income was €35,056,916 leaving a net expenditure of €23,035,001;• following the deduction of the County Charge of €2,078,800, this left a sum of €20,956,201 to be financed as follows - €13,151,964 (including the pension levy) from the LGF and €7,804,237 to be levied from commercial rates.	

Mr. D. Conlon noted that the net effective valuation had decreased but stressed that the General Annual Rate on Valuation had remained the same as the previous year, i.e., €56.7658.

Mr. D. Conlon referred the members to the Capital Budget 2012-2014 and the Development Contribution Report 2012 which was circulated as part of the Budget Book. He advised that the projected capital requirement for the period was €41.082m and that the current balance, in the sum of €5.436m with the projected annual income of €300,000 p.a. over the following three years, would result in a projected shortfall of €34.746m. He advised that the shortfall would restrict the Council's ability to undertake many capital projects and that projects would be deferred and/or prioritised having regard to the funds available.

The Cathaoirleach joined with the members who collectively and individually complimented the staff involved in the delivery of services and those involved in the preparation of the budget for 2012. He acknowledged that it was the most difficult budget to be placed before the members and noted that they had met In-Committee to consider the Draft Budget on 12th and 19th December 2011. The Cathaoirleach invited the members to comment on the Draft Budget 2012 and advised that if they did not agree with a suggested budget allocation that they should identify where the required funding, i.e., decrease in expenditure and/or increase in income, could be sourced.

Cllr. E. Dooley proposed the adoption of the Draft Budget 2012, subject to the following changes to the Draft Budget 2012:

Reduce Expenditure in the following services:

• H0904 Expenses LA Members	reduce by 20%	€18,406	
• H0906 Conferences Abroad	reduce by 50%	€ 2,884	
• E1001 Operation Costs Civil Defence	reduce by	€ 5,000	
• E1101 Operation of Fire Brigade Service	reduce by	€35,000	
• G0101 Maintenance of Land Drainage Areas	omit	€30,000	
• Division J Non-Pay Áras	reduce by	€10,000	
• Division J Post Room costs	reduce by	€ 5,000	
• D01 Forward Planning	reduce by	<u>€ 8,710</u>	
		€115,000	

Increase Income in the following services:

• E1103 Fire Services Training	increase by	€40,000	
• E0101 Landfill Operations	increase by	<u>€20,000</u>	
		€60,000	€175,000

This sum of €175,000 to be allocated as follows:

• A0901 Disabled Persons Grants	increase by	€100,000	
• B04 Local Roads	increase by	<u>€ 75,000</u>	€175,000

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. T.McKeigue.

A number of members agreed with the proposal acknowledging that the reductions in all service areas and in particular in housing maintenance, libraries, arts and tourism were of concern.

Suspension of Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the members resolved to adjourn Standing Orders and that the December Monthly Meeting would be held following the conclusion of the Statutory Budget Meeting.

Statutory Budget Meeting (Cont.)

Cllr. D. Dolan proposed the adoption of the Draft Budget 2012, subject to the following changes to the Draft Budget 2012:

Reduce Expenditure in the following services:

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| • E1101 Operation of Fire Brigade Service | reduce by | €35,000 | |
| • G0101 Maintenance of Land Drainage Areas | omit | €30,000 | |
| • H0902 Chair/Vice Chair Allowance | reduce by 50% | €13,500 | |
| • H0904 Expenses LA Members | reduce by 33.33% | €31,000 | |
| • H0905 Other Expenses | reduce by 50% | €14,000 | |
| • H0906 Conferences Abroad | reduce by 70% | € 4,000 | |
| • Division J Post Room costs | reduce by | € 5,000 | |
| • D01 Forward Planning – consultancy costs | reduce by | <u>€10,000</u> | |
| | | €142,500 | |

Increase Income in the following services:

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|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| • E1103 Fire Services Training | increase by | €40,000 | |
| • E0101 Landfill Operations | increase by | <u>€20,000</u> | |
| | | €60,000 | €202,500 |

This sum of €202,500 to be allocated as follows:

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| • A01 Housing Repairs & Maintenance | increase by | € 36,500 | |
| • A0901 Disabled Persons Grants | increase by | €100,000 | |
| • F01 Leisure Facilities Oper. (Swimming Pools) | increase by | €16,000 | |
| • B04 Local Roads | increase by | <u>€ 50,000</u> | €202,500 |

Cllr. D. Dolan's proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll.

As there were two proposals before the members the Cathaoirleach advised that a roll call vote would be taken on the first proposal, tabled by Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, to adopt the Budget 2012 as amended by his proposal.

The result of the roll call vote for Cllr. E. Dooley's proposal, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, to adopt the Budget 2012 as amended by his proposal was as follows:

For: Cllrs. N. Bourke, M. Buckley, P. Clendennen, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, S. Moylan-Ryan, P. Ormond, D. Owens, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn and P. Rowland.

Against: Cllrs. J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, D. Dolan and J. Foley.

Abstain: Cllr. T. McLoughlin.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. D. Owens, declared Cllr. E. Dooley's motion to be carried and the Budget 2012 adopted subject to the amendments proposed by Cllr. E. Dooley.

ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL ANNUAL RATE OF VALUATION

On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members resolved to adopt the General Annual Rate of Valuation to be levied at 56.7658. This represented no increase on the 2011 General Annual Rate of Valuation.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNAÍ

16th JANUARY 2012